



For Immediate Release

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VALUING BOBCATS:
SCIENTISTS FIND BOBCATS WORTH 1,000 TIMES MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD

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Jackson, Wyoming - Authors of a [new article in *Biodiversity and Conservation*](#), an internationally-recognized science journal, calculated the value of a free-roaming bobcat in Yellowstone National Park to the economy versus its value as a trapped and hunted animal. The article is a unique collaboration between researchers from [Panthera](#), the global wild cat conservation organization, and advocates with [Wyoming Untrapped](#).

The authors estimated a conservative, non-consumptive economic value of \$308,105 for this single bobcat in Yellowstone National Park in northwest Wyoming for one winter season, a figure nearly 1000 times greater than the average exploitive value of \$315.17 per bobcat trapped or hunted in Wyoming that same year (\$130.53 per bobcat harvested in revenue earned by the state of Wyoming in trapping license sales + \$184.64 per pelt sold by successful trappers and hunters). Also consider, that this same bobcat could generate the same figure again the following year, should it survive the summer season in Yellowstone. **Over its life, this one bobcat could generate well over \$1 million in economic activity, shared across countless people involved in travel and tourism.**

Dr. Mark Elbroch, Puma Program Lead Scientist and lead author, stated, “With millions of people coming through Yellowstone and Grand Teton each year, the value of living wildlife to local economies, visitor enjoyment, and even to those who may never visit these parks, cannot be emphasized enough. Bobcats are a natural resource we share in public trust with the whole country, and beyond.”

At a time when the North American model of wildlife conservation works to eliminate markets that support the exploitation of wildlife, this study underscores a movement to manage animals for the second largest economy in the state – tourism. Bobcats, however, continue to be hunted and trapped for pelts that are sent to overseas markets for use in clothing. In Wyoming, a resident bobcat license currently costs \$44.

Kristin Combs, Program Director for Wyoming Untrapped stated, "It is time that wildlife managers prioritize the value of wildlife for the community as a whole instead of for a single hunter or trapper."

The authors conclude with recommendations that we enact range-wide regulatory changes across the United States, Canada and Mexico to ensure bobcat management is science-based, and that hunting/trapping limits are created and enforced that ensure bobcats are abundant enough across their range to support ecotourism and ecological stability, as well as sportsmen; in this way we increase protection for this amazing, beautiful animal, as well as ensure all people have access to shared resources held in trust. Right now, bobcat management is variable. For example, Texas currently offers zero protection to bobcats, whereas in California and New Hampshire, they are fully protected and illegal to hunt.

About Panthera

Panthera, founded in 2006, is devoted exclusively to preserving wild cats and their critical role in the world's ecosystems. Panthera's team of leading biologists, law enforcement experts and wild cat advocates develop innovative strategies based on the best available science to protect cheetahs, jaguars, leopards, lions, pumas, snow leopards and tigers and their vast landscapes. In 36 countries around the world, Panthera works with a wide variety of stakeholders to reduce or eliminate the most pressing threats to wild cats—securing their future, and ours.

Visit Panthera.org.

About Wyoming Untrapped

Wyoming Untrapped is dedicated to creating a safe and humane environment for people, pets and wildlife through education, trapping regulation reform, and compassionate coexistence. Visit WyomingUntrapped.org.

Article full text can be found at <http://rdcu.be/tW06>

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